



**Presentation**

**to**

**The Joint Legislative Education Oversight  
Committee**

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## **Clarifying Terms**

### **Basic Skills**

The mission of the Basic Skills program is to assist adults with becoming literate, completing a secondary school education, and acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency. The program also helps adults who are parents obtain the educational skills necessary to become full partners in the educational development of their children. The North Carolina Community College System provides educational opportunities for adults to improve their reading, writing, mathematics, and communication skills through five major program components (Adult Basic Education, General Educational Development, Adult High School, English as a Second Language, and Compensatory Education).

### **Developmental Courses**

Developmental courses are designed to meet the needs of underprepared adult students who have earned a high school diploma or its equivalent. These courses provide basic instruction in reading, math, and English so that adult students can obtain skills necessary for success in degree, diploma, and certificate programs.

Developmental courses exist as prerequisites to General Education courses. Students who do not meet prerequisites through test scores or prior credit must take the appropriate Developmental math, reading, and/or English courses prior to enrolling in certain General Education courses. Developmental classes are offered during the day as well as in the evening for students' convenience. Grades earned in Developmental courses are not included in the student's grade point average, and credit hours earned do not count toward graduation. (For a partial listing of Developmental courses, see page 3.)

### **Early College High Schools**

"Early college high school is a bold approach, based on the principle that academic rigor, combined with the opportunity to save time and money, is a powerful motivator for students to work hard and meet serious intellectual challenges. Early college high schools blend high school and college in a rigorous yet supportive program, compressing the time it takes to complete a high school diploma and the first two years of college.... The schools are designed so that low-income youth, first-generation college goers, English language learners, students of color, and other young people underrepresented in higher education can simultaneously earn a high school diploma and an Associate's degree or up to two years of credit toward a Bachelor's degree—tuition free." (*The Early College High School Initiative*, <<http://www.earlycolleges.org>>, accessed on March 7, 2008.)

## **Middle College High Schools**

Middle College High Schools (MCHS), like Early College High Schools, are housed on college campuses so that students can take high school classes and college courses at the same time. Most MCHS students have educational plans that structure their learning so that they can take 3 to 11 college credits a semester while completing their high school course work.

College courses are free to all MCHS students because educational partners such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation offer grants to pay for the students' college tuition and textbooks.

## **Partial Listing of Developmental Courses**

### **ENG Courses:**

**ENG 060 Speaking English Well**  
**ENG 070 Basic Language Skills**  
**ENG 075 Reading & Language Essentials**  
**ENG 075A Reading & Language Essentials Lab**  
**ENG 080 Writing Foundations**  
**ENG 085 Reading & Writing Foundations**  
**ENG 085A Reading & Writing Foundations Lab**  
**ENG 090 Composition Strategies**  
**ENG 090A Composition Strategies Lab**  
**ENG 095 Reading & Composition Strategies**  
**ENG 095A Reading & Composition Strategies Lab**

### **RED Courses:**

**RED 070 Essential Reading Skills**  
**RED 080 Introduction to College Reading**  
**RED 090 Improved College Reading**

### **MAT Courses:**

**MAT 050 Basic Math Skills**  
**MAT 060 Essential Mathematics**  
**MAT 070 Introductory Algebra**  
**MAT 075 Geometry**  
**MAT 080 Intermediate Algebra**  
**MAT 090 Accelerated Algebra**  
**MAT 095 Algebraic Concepts**

## NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

	Basic Skills	Developmental Education	Curriculum Programs
<b>Target Learners:</b>	Adult learners whose academic skills are below the 8th grade	Adult learners who have earned a high school diploma or its equivalent but fail to meet the required placement test scores in reading, English, and/or math. Courses are designed to support the academic growth of underprepared adult students.	Adult learners who have earned a high school diploma or its equivalent, high school students participating in joint high school programs such as Huskins, Dual Enrollment, Early College High School, Middle College High School, Learn and Earn, Learn and Earn On-Line.
<b>Selection Criteria:</b>	High School Non-Completers	Scores on College Placement Test (CPT)	Prior academic performance and/or placement test scores indicate these learners are academically prepared for the rigors of college-level course work.
<b>Ages:</b>	16 or older and out of high school	18 or older and a high school (or equivalent) graduate	9th-12th grade for joint high school programs, 18 or older and a high school (or equivalent) graduate.
<b>Programs/ Courses/ Degrees</b>	Adult Basic Education (ABE) English as a Second Language (ESL) Compensatory Education Adult High School General Educational Development(GED)	Any course numbered 050-099 and listed in the NCCCS Combined Course Library	Rigorous academic college level programs in which adult learners can earn an Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, Associate in Fine Arts, and Associate in Applied Science degree; a diploma; or a certificate.